jects, namely, Telugu Ganga and Vamsadhara Stage-II, though techno-economically appraised in April, 1988 and October, 1988, respectively, require resolution of inter-State issues. Vamsadhara Stage-II. Project also requires clearance from forest and environmental angles and the State Government is to furnish the details of rehabilitation plan to the Union Department of Welfare. Six medium irrigation projects have been examined at the Centre and observations have been sent to the State Government between November, 1988 and August, 1989. There is no further response from the State Government.

Effecting hike in HRA and CCA from 1st April, 1986

324. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO :
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'HRA, CCA hike Effective from April 1, 1986' which appreared in the Times of India of the 20th January, 1990;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) The Board of Arbitration has given an Award on 19-1-1990 that House Rent Allowance and Compensatory (City) Allowance may be paid to Central Government employees at the revised rates as accepted by the Government on the basis of the recommendation of 4th Pay Commission, from 1-4-1986 instead of from 1-10-1986. The Award further provides that the amounts received by the employees in respect of the period 1st April, 1986 to 30th September, 1986 under the previous Award of the Board dated 4th January, 1989 shall be adjusted against the amounts due under this Award.

(c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Measures to prevent booth capturing during elections

325. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any measures to prevent booth capturing during elections; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) : (a) and (b) Specific measures like posting of substantially large number of Central forces in addition to the State police forces, identifying areas prone to booth capturing, seizure of illegal arms, restrictions on the movement of vehicles on polling day and rounding up of anti-social elements etc. had been taken during the recent Assembly elections. Further certain measures for prevention of booth capturing are under consideration of the Committee on Electoral Reforms appointed by the Government.

Expenditure on Subsidies

326. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA :
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a RBI study the total

expenditure on subsidies on items like food, fertilizers and for export promotion/market development will be Rs. 8454 crores during the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, the likely impact of such subsidy on price situation; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to stop giving such subsidies or at least curtial the same so as to reduce the burden on the exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Yes, Sir. These are based on Budget 1989-90 figures.

(b) and (c) Subsidies given to consumers are meant for price stabilisation. If such subsidies are withdrawn, prices of the relevant commodities will rise. Subsidy for exports promotes exports. Increased exports improve balance of payments position enabling imports to offset domestic shortages which in turn benefits overall growth and price stability. It is however, always the endeavour of the Government to keep down the subsidies to the minimum level possible, so as to curtail the burden on the exchequer.

Khusro Committee Report on Agricultural credit

327. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the Khusro Committee Report on Agricultural credit submitted to Government in 1989;

(b) whether Government have accepted any of its recommendations; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) : (a) to (c) The Agriculture Credit Review Committee (Chairman— Prof. A.M. Khusro), has reviewed the rural financial system in the country and evaluated the major problems and issues currently affecting the same. It has made wide range of recommendations for improving the quality of credit and strengthening its efficiency and effectiveness. The Report is under consideration of the Government and Reserve Bank of India.

Delay in handling Government Accounts by Nationalised Banks

328. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any random study has been made to ascertain the annual losses suffered due to the delay in handling Government accounts by the nationalised banks in the country;

(b) it so, what are the details thereof stating the number of public sector banks where such a study was conducted and the amount of loss detected to have been suffered annually due to delay in handling Government accounts; and

(c) whether Government have critically examined the causes for the delay; if so, what ramedial measures have been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c) The schemes for the receipt of Government dues on account of direct taxes and indirect taxes by designated nationalised banks in addition to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and State Bank of India (SBI) were introduced by the Government with effect from 1st April, 1976 and 1st April, 1977 respectively. In terms of the exist-